

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A seatbelt use indicating apparatus comprising:

a detector that detects whether a seatbelt is used;

a use indicator that indicates by displaying a first glow for indicating that the seatbelt is used based on a result of detection provided by the detector; and

a non-use indicator that indicates by displaying a second glow that turns off after an amount of time for indicating that the seatbelt is not used based on a result of detection provided by the detector; wherein:

both the first glow and the second glow is- are at least one of a flickering glow and or a combination of a continuous glow and the flickering glow; and

the displayed second glow of the non-use indicator is brighter than the displayed first glow of the use indicator; and

the second glow changes to the first glow when the use indicator determines that the seatbelt is in use, such that either the first glow or the second glow is always on to indicate the seatbelt status.

2. (Currently Amended) The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the use indicator and the non-use indicator are formed by a single indicator device that indicates a state where the seatbelt is used by displaying the first glow and a state where the seatbelt is not used by displaying the second glow, in different indication fashions.

3. (Previously Presented) The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the indication fashions further relate to at least one of a display color and a display state.

4. (Original) The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein one of a plurality of the detectors, one of a plurality of the use indicators and one of a plurality of the non-use indicators are provided for each of a plurality of seats in a vehicle.

5. (Original) The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the detector detects the state of use/non-use of the seatbelt based on whether a tongue plate is engaged with a buckle portion.

6. (Original) The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the use indicator and the non-use indicator use an LED to indicate whether the seatbelt is used.

7. (Currently Amended) A seatbelt use indicating method comprising the steps of:

detecting whether a seatbelt is used;

indicating that the seatbelt is used by displaying a first glow based on a result of detection; and

indicating that the seatbelt is not used by displaying a second glow that turns off after an amount of time based on a result of detection; and

changing the second glow into the first glow when the use indicator determines that the seatbelt is in use; wherein:

both the first glow and the second glow are is at least one of a flickering glow and or a combination of a continuous glow and the flickering glow; and

the displayed second glow indicating that the seatbelt is not used is brighter than the displayed first glow indicating that the seatbelt is used; and

either the first glow or the second glow is always on to indicate the seatbelt status.

8. (Currently Amended) The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 7, wherein a state where the seatbelt is used as indicated by the first glow and a state where the seatbelt is not used as indicated by the second glow are indicated in different indication fashions by a single indicator device.

9. (Previously Presented) The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 8, wherein the indication fashions further relate to at least one of a display color and a display state.

10. (Original) The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 7, wherein a detection regarding the state of use/non-use of the seatbelt, an indication that the seatbelt is used, and an indication that the seatbelt is not used are provided for each of a plurality of seats in a vehicle.

11. (Original) The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 7, wherein whether the seatbelt is used is detected based on whether a tongue plate is engaged with a buckle portion.

12. (Original) The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 7, wherein an LED is used to indicate whether the seatbelt is used.

13. (New) The seatbelt use indicating apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a state of seatbelt use or non-use can be distinguished from an indicator failure of either the use indicator or the non-use indicator, the indicator failure occurring when both the first glow and the second glow are off.

14. (New) The seatbelt use indicating method according to claim 7, wherein a state of seatbelt use or non-use can be distinguished from a indicator failure of either the use indicating step or the non-use indicating step, the indicating step failures occurring when both the first glow and the second glow are off.